House File 56 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 56
BY NUNN

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act lowering the age at which a person may register to vote
- 2 and including effective date provisions.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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- 1 Section 1. Section 48A.5, subsection 2, paragraph c, Code
- 2 2017, is amended to read as follows:
- 3 c. (1) Be at least eighteen years of age. Completed
- 4 registration forms shall be accepted from registrants who are
- 5 at least seventeen and one-half sixteen years of age; however,
- 6 the registration shall not be effective until the registrant
- 7 reaches the age of eighteen. The commissioner of registration
- 8 shall ensure that the birth date shown on the registration form
- 9 is at least seventeen and one-half sixteen years earlier than
- 10 the date the registration is processed.
- 11 (2) A registrant who is at least seventeen and one-half
- 12 years of age and who will be eighteen by the date of a pending
- 13 election is a registered voter for the pending election for
- 14 purposes of chapter 53.
- 15 Sec. 2. Section 48A.11, subsection 3, Code 2017, is amended
- 16 to read as follows:
- 17 3. The following questions and statement regarding
- 18 eligibility shall be included on forms that may be used for
- 19 registration by mail:
- 20 [1] "Are you a citizen of the United States of America?"
- 21 [2] "Will you be eighteen "Are you at least sixteen years of
- 22 age on or before election day?" age?"
- 23 [3] "If you checked 'no' in response to either of these
- 24 questions, do not complete this form."
- 25 Sec. 3. Section 48A.14, subsection 1, paragraph b, Code
- 26 2017, is amended to read as follows:
- 27 b. The challenged registrant is less than seventeen and
- 28 one-half sixteen years of age.
- 29 Sec. 4. Section 48A.23, subsection 1, Code 2017, is amended
- 30 to read as follows:
- 31 1. At least twice during each school year, the board of
- 32 directors of each school district operating a high school and
- 33 the authorities in charge of each accredited nonpublic school
- 34 shall offer the opportunity to register to vote to each student
- 35 who is at least seventeen and one-half sixteen years of age.

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- 1 Sec. 5. Section 48A.26, subsection 9, Code 2017, is amended 2 to read as follows:
- 9. When a person who is at least seventeen and one-half
- 4 sixteen years of age but less than eighteen years of age
- 5 registers to vote, the commissioner shall maintain a record of
- 6 the registration so as to clearly indicate that it will not
- 7 take effect until the registrant's eighteenth birthday and that
- 8 the person is registered and qualifies to vote at any election
- 9 held on or after that date.
- 10 Sec. 6. Section 48A.31, Code 2017, is amended to read as 11 follows:
- 12 48A.31 Deceased persons record.
- 13 The state registrar of vital statistics shall transmit
- 14 or cause to be transmitted to the state registrar of voters,
- 15 once each calendar quarter, a certified list of all persons
- 16 seventeen and one-half sixteen years of age and older in
- 17 the state whose deaths have been reported to the bureau of
- 18 vital records of the Iowa department of public health since
- 19 the previous list of decedents was certified to the state
- 20 registrar of voters. The list shall be submitted according
- 21 to the specifications of the state registrar of voters. The
- 22 commissioner shall, in the month following the end of a
- 23 calendar quarter, run the statewide voter registration system's
- 24 matching program to determine whether a listed decedent was
- 25 registered to vote in the county and shall immediately cancel
- 26 the registration of any person named on the list of decedents.
- Sec. 7. Section 280.9A, subsection 3, Code 2017, is amended
- 28 to read as follows:
- 29 3. At least twice during each school year, the board of
- 30 directors of each local public school district operating a
- 31 high school and the authorities in charge of each accredited
- 32 nonpublic school operating a high school shall offer the
- 33 opportunity to register to vote to each student who is at least
- 34 seventeen and one-half sixteen years of age, as required by
- 35 section 48A.23.

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- 1 Sec. 8. Section 602.8102, subsection 15, Code 2017, is
- 2 amended to read as follows:
- 3 15. Monthly, notify the county commissioner of registration
- 4 and the state registrar of voters of persons seventeen and
- 5 one-half sixteen years of age and older who have been convicted
- 6 of a felony during the preceding calendar month or persons
- 7 who at any time during the preceding calendar month have been
- 8 legally declared to be a person who is incompetent to vote as
- 9 that term is defined in section 48A.2.
- 10 Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect January 1, 11 2018.
- 12 EXPLANATION
- The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.
- 15 This bill relates to voter registration and voting.
- 16 Current law allows an eligible elector who is at least 17 and
- 17 one-half years of age to register to vote. The bill allows an
- 18 otherwise eligible elector to register to vote at the age of
- 19 16. The bill makes additional conforming changes.
- 20 The bill takes effect January 1, 2018.